

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A method for the production of a piston for an internal combustion engine, the piston having a combustion depression provided on the piston head, comprising the steps of:

forming ~~the~~ a piston blank from a first cylindrical part having at least one flat face made of oxidation-resistant steel and a second cylindrical part having at least one flat face made of hot-forgeable steel, said parts having same diameters, said step of forming comprising:

(a) bringing the parts together at their flat faces and aligning said faces with respect to their diameters, ~~so that the flat faces form a minimal projection and a minimal parting;~~ and

(b) fixing the parts to each other at the parting by means of ~~a minimal number of~~ at least three weld points around a circumference of the parting so that cover surfaces of the parts are free of a weld connection;

(c) producing the piston blank by forging the parts, said step of forging causing forming formation of the

combustion depression in oxidation-resistant steel ~~by machining~~;
and

finishing the piston blank via machining to produce a piston ready for installation in the internal combustion engine.

Claim 2(Original): A method according to claim 1, wherein the step of fixing is accomplished by forming three weld points, offset from one another on the circumference by an angle of 120 degrees.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): A method according to claim 2, wherein the step of fixing is carried out without preheating the parts.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): A method according to claim 1, wherein immediately after fixing, the parts are inductively heated and then subsequently forged in the heated state to produce a piston blank.

Claim 5 (Original): A method according to claim 4, wherein the heating process takes place at a temperature of 1100° C to 1300° C.

Claim 6 (Original): A method according to claim 1, wherein

the step of fixing comprises arc welding, laser welding, or electron beam welding.